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Letter dated 24 December 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

With regard to the increasing threats by the Israeli regime and the recent inflammatory statements by Benjamin Netanyahu, I would like to bring the following to your attention:

Following the threat of nuclear annihilation made on 29 August 2018 (A/73/409–S/2018/859), Benjamin Netanyahu, when asked on 13 December 2018 about attacking Iranian territory, stated, "I'm not ruling out doing anything". A few days later, during his visit to Israel Aerospace Industries on 17 December 2018, he, who always criticizes the Iranian "defensive" conventional missile programme, boasted about the development of "offensive missiles" by Israel Aerospace Industries that can reach "anywhere in the area" and "any target", thereby implicitly threatening all countries in the region. Furthermore, on 18 December 2018, he confessed to the presence of Israeli agents, who are involved in espionage and terrorist activities, in Iran by stating that they "periodically visit" Iran.

These statements and actions are only the tip of a submerged iceberg of the hostile policies and practices, as well as the threats, plots and plans, of the Israeli regime against Iran. All such activities are illegal and blatantly violate the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Article 2 (4).

In addition to such hostilities, the efforts conducted by the Israeli regime to undermine the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as well as its practices in blatantly violating resolution 2231 (2015) of the Security Council, should be recalled. This regime must be held accountable for such violations and must be compelled to stop violating that resolution.

On the one hand, the Israeli regime tries to cry wolf and play victim to whitewash all of the crimes and brutalities it continues to commit against the Palestinians and others in the region. On the other hand, by developing "offensive" weapons systems "with special capabilities that no other country has", as stated by Benjamin Netanyahu, the regime continues to threaten countries in the region. In this context, it should be recalled that the Israeli regime is not a party to any of the international legally binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction and has an extremely dark record in committing acts of aggression, occupying the territories of other countries as well as blatantly and continuously violating the basic principles, rules and norms of international law.

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Reserving all of its inherent rights to defend its citizens and borders as well as to protect all of its interests against the animosities and threats of the Israeli regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the international community to condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the expansionist and aggressive policies of Israel, to hold it accountable for all its wrongful acts and unlawful practices and to compel it to join all international legally binding instruments banning weapons of mass destruction and to abide by the principles and rules of international law. This is of the utmost importance for the preservation of peace and security, especially in such a volatile region as the Middle East.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eshagh **Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.